metal or plastic element. Support for the amendments may be found for example in the specification, at page 5, \P 1 & 4. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that as amended, independent claim is patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, dependent claims 8–11 which depend therefrom are also in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 30, 2003

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APPENDIX A

In the Claims:

7. (Twice Amended) An implant dental prosthesis comprising:

an implant abutment affixed at a lower end to a dental implant, said implant abutment having an implant abutment axis;

a circumferential groove in said implant abutment extending substantially transverse to said axis and a retentive element between said prosthesis and said implant abutment for co-operating with said circumferential groove; and

an appliance having a hollow retainer cavity with an outwardly and downwardly taper relative to said implant abutment axis forming a retainer surface telescopically mateable on an upwardly and inwardly extending facing a mating tapered surface on said axial implant abutment [making] <u>including coupling means for</u> a resilient retentive fit between said mating tapered surfaces.